DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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A Message to British Parliamentarians:

REMEMBER?

Nine years ago, on April 11th 1945, American troops reached the concentration camp of Buchenwald, near Weimar in Thuringia.

On April 20th, a British Parliamentary Delegation visited the camp. Here are some extracts from their report, published in April 1945 as Cmd. 6626 by His Majesty's Stationery Office in London:

"We were told by the U. S. authorities that, since their arrival, the number of deaths had been reduced from about 100 per day to 35 on the day before our visit.

"...There had been similar overcrowding in Block 61, which had been used as a rough hospital, chiefly for those suffering from tuberculosis or dysentery.

"Four, five, or six men, including those who had undergone operations, had regularly to lie in each of the small shelf cubicles. Here too there were no mattresses. The excreta of the dysentery patients dripped down from tier to tier. If the living were strong enough they pushed the dead out into the gangway.

"In preparing this report, we have endeavoured to write with restraint and objectivity, and to avoid obtruding personal reactions or emotional comments.

"We would conclude, however, by stating that it is our considered and unanimous opinion, on the evidence available to us, that a policy of steady starvation and inhuman brutality was carried out at Buchenwald for a long period of time; and that such camps as this mark the lowest point of degradation to which humanity has yet descended. The memory of what we saw and heard at Buchenwald will haunt us ineffaceably for many years."

Signed: Lord Stanhope, Lord Addison, Tom Wickham (Conservative), A. R. G. Southby (Conservative), Mavis Tate (Conservative), Ness Edwards (Labour), S. Sydney Silverman (Labour), Graham White (Liberal), Henry Morris-Jones (Liberal-National), Tom Driberg (Independent).

When you vote for West German rearmament, you are voting for new Buchenwalds. Adenauer's Government today includes SS officers who helped to run the concentration camps and his new army will be officered by the men who sent victims to the camps from all parts of Europe.

("Jewish Clarion", London)

WEHRMACHT LEGAL

The West German Parliament legalised conscription for a new Wehrmacht on February 26th, by passing the second and third readings of a constitutional amendment.

The main change made was in Article 73 of the Constitution, by the addition of a paragraph stating:

"The Federal Government will have exclusive right of legislation on... defence, including conscription for men aged eighteen and above, as well as for civilian defence."

This constitutional amendment has removed the last legal obstacle to the formation of a Wehrmacht.

Most of the staff and field officers — all of them without exception veterans of the Hitlerite Wehrmacht — have already been appointed.

"GERMANY STILL ON AGENDA"

— Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov

The German problem was not solved by the Berlin Conference but this did not mean that it had been removed from the agenda, Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov stated on February 18th in his closing speech to the Conference.

"The exchange of opinions at the Conference has contributed to a better understanding of the attitude of the states represented here" Mr. Molotov said.

"In our discussions of the German problem we have all repeatedly stated that the solution of this problem is inextricably linked with the guaranteeing of security in Europe. This means that Germany must be united on a democratic and peace-loving basis, and that the re-establishment of German militarism must not be allowed.

"The difference in the attitudes of the Four Powers towards the German problem has become sufficiently clear. The present Berlin Conference has in particular made it clear that the solution of the German problem is above all a matter for the Germans themselves.

"The Governments (of the Big Four) have their share of the responsibility for the solution of the German problem; they must not forget however that the foreign occupation troops on German territory have only limited functions — they must not be allowed to push the Germans on one side in the solution of the question of reuniting Germany, the restoration of a united German state on a democratic and peaceable basis."

Mr. Molotov then summed up the various phases of the negotiations on Germany:

German Representation at the Conference

"We were not even able to reach agreement on such a simple problem as listening here to the Germans, in order to learn what the German people themselves think about the reunification of Germany, and the participation of the German people in guaranteeing peace and security in Europe. We are convinced that it would have been much easier to solve these problems... if we had listened to representatives of East and West Germany.

Free Elections

"All Germans are interested in the restoration of the unity of the German state. We must therefore contribute to the speedy holding of All-German free elections. If we really want free elections in Germany, then they must be conducted by the Germans themselves and not by foreign occupation officials.

Withdrawal of Occupation Troops

"To guarantee real freedom for all-German elections the Soviet Government has proposed that the foreign occupation troops, with the exception of strictly limited contingents, should be withdrawn from the entire territory of Germany. This would make it possible to avoid foreign pressure upon the free election of deputies to an all-German parliament, a matter which is exclusively an internal affair of the German people.

A Peace Treaty

"The question of the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany must not be postponed. We have not so far been successful in reaching agreement on the commencement of preparations for a peace treaty with Germany. This question must be solved, however.

European Security

"During the years of war, the Governments of the USA, the United Kingdom, France and the USSR could reach agreements with each other. This is all the more reason why they should find a way to coordinate their actions under peaceful conditions, particularly when the prevention of a new war is at stake.

"The Soviet Government cannot avoid drawing attention to the particular danger of a new military grouping such as the European Defence Community, the creation of which means the restoration of German militarism. Plans of this nature are not in the interests of peace and security in Europe.

"It is for this reason that the Soviet Government proposed an All-European Treaty on Collective Security. Germany too could cooperate on equal terms in this treaty — first of all in the form of East and West Germany, and later as united Germany."

GROTEWOHL CALLS FOR NEUTRALISED GERMANY

Germany should remain unarmed and neutralised so long as no agreement had been reached on a peace treaty, East German Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl told the People's Chamber on February 25th.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic greets the proposal made by the Soviet delegation to the Big Four Conference to this effect" Grotewohl stated.

Referring to the fact that representatives of both North and South Korea had been invited to the forthcoming conference in Geneva, Prime Minister Grotewohl stated: "Must we wait for a frightful war before Germans from East and West sit down together to reach an understanding?

"The security of Europe can only be guaranteed if plans are abandoned to re-establish a new West German Wehrmacht on the Hitlerite pattern. Future German policy must provide guarantees for European security, such as the following:

1. The united Germany must be democratic and peaceable, and must provide no haven for anti-democratic forces and militarist and fascist organisations. Big monopolies must not be allowed to influence German policy.
2. Germany must not conclude military alliances.
3. A German defensive force will only be necessary and permitted within strictly defined limits.
4. The Soviet Union and the People's Democracies must be provided with guarantees against a German aggression.
5. Similar guarantees must be provided for Germany's western neighbours.

"We believe that security in Europe and the maintenance of peace can only be achieved by means of the collective efforts of all peace-loving states. We formally declare that the German Democratic Republic is ready to cooperate in such a system of collective security in Europe."

Summing up the results of the Berlin Conference, Prime Minister Grotewohl stated:

"The difficulties which confront us have naturally not been diminished, but we can now see them more clearly. We do not intend to capitulate in the face of these difficulties. We shall fight on with all our strength for the signature of a peace treaty and the establishment of a united, democratic and peace-loving Germany."

BERLIN CONFERENCE LOG (3)

February 16th:

Foreign Ministers discuss the Austrian question.

February 17th:

Molotov reiterates the readiness of the Soviet Union to correct and improve its draft for a European Security Treaty. "The European Security Treaty is an alternative to the European Defense Community which aims at the rebirth of German militarism. The Soviet Union cannot allow this rebirth" Molotov states.

Turning to the question of Germany, Molotov states: "Bidault has claimed that the mobile police in the German Democratic Republic represents a military force with a strength of over 100,000 men. This claim is not based upon objective information. On the other hand, the Soviet Government has information according to which the police forces, paramilitary and military formations in West Germany total 368,000 men."

Molotov proposes that this matter should be clarified, and submits a draft resolution under which the parties concerned should reach agreement on the strength and armament of the German police in both halves of Germany (Text of the draft resolution on this page).

Since the conference has been unable to reach agreement on a thorough settlement of the German question, Molotov proposes that steps should be taken to make a partial agreement possible. He submits a resolution under the terms of which the Foreign Ministers should urge East and West Germany to establish two All-German Committees, one dealing with commerce, transport and frontier questions, and the other dealing with cultural, scientific and sport relations.

The western foreign ministers promise to study Molotov's proposals.

February 18th:

The Big Four Conference ends with a communique announcing:

1) A conference of the Big Five, plus other interested nations, to be held in Geneva on April 26th to "reach a peaceful settlement of the Korean question" and discuss the problem of restoring peace in Indo-China.

2) A further exchange of views on disarmament.

3) "The four ministers have had a full exchange of views on the German question, on the problems of European security and on the Austrian question; but they were unable to reach agreement upon these matters."

Before agreeing upon the joint communique, the western foreign ministers briefly reject the proposals made by Molotov on the previous day. Dulles rejects the proposal for East-West agreement on the question of police strength by stating: "This proposal has no substance."

Bidault turns down the proposal for East-West trade and cultural committees, stating: "These proposals are purely technical, and cannot be a subject for discussion at this conference."

Molotov makes a final attempt to reach a positive decision on the German question by proposing that the Big Four should continue their efforts to reach a solution of the German question in the interests of peace. (Text of the proposal on this page).

Dulles and Bidault state that it is too late to consider new proposals. Eden states he is ready to study the proposal but doubts whether it can be put into effect.

Molotov closes the conference with the words: "The problems which this conference has not solved have not been removed from the agenda. We must continue patiently to strive for their solution." (Extracts from Molotov's closing speech on page 34.)

"No Soldiering" Say West Germans

Nearly three out of four of all young men in West Germany reject the idea of becoming soldiers, according to a public opinion survey conducted by the "EMNID" West German Public Opinion Research Organisation situated at Bielefeld in the British Zone of Germany.

The question which the pollsters put to 1500 young men aged between 15 and 24 in West Germany was:

"Would you like to be a soldier?"

71 % answered "No".

28 % answered "Yes"

1 % had no opinion.

Even those young men who said that they supported West German Chancellor Adenauer's policies were not very ready to serve in the new army which he plans: only 30 % of this group were willing themselves to do military service.

Two percent of those polled said they would be willing to be soldiers if it was guaranteed that they would not have to fight in a war.

SOVIET DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

On All-German Committees

Recognizing the importance for Germany of facilitating and expanding economic ties between Western and Eastern Germany and also the need to create more favourable conditions for the development of German national culture, it shall be recommended to the appropriate bodies in Western and Eastern Germany:

a) To set up an all-German Committee with the functions of agreement and coordination in the field of commerce, settlement of accounts, transport, frontier and other matters connected with economic relations.

b) To set up an all-German Committee on the development of cultural, scientific and sport relations with a view to eliminating the existing obstacles to the development of German national culture.

(Resolution rejected by the western foreign ministers)

On East and West Police

The Governments of France, the United Kingdom, the USA and the USSR consider it desirable to have agreement achieved by the parties on the German police, both in Eastern and Western Germany, including matters relating to the strength and armament of all types of police.

(Resolution rejected by the western foreign ministers)

On Further Discussions

The Governments of France, the United Kingdom, the USA and the USSR will continue their efforts directed towards a satisfactory solution of the German problem in accordance with the interests of strengthening peace in Europe.

(Resolution rejected by western foreign ministers)

Schoolgirl in East Berlin

By Joan Becker

My little friend Margot came in to see me on Sunday afternoon. She is fourteen and in her last year of primary school, and we got to talking about school.

Margot started school in the autumn of 1945 — just at the end of the war, so she has only known the new democratic school. She remembers the days of slate pencils and scraps of paper and the old text books with missing pages which they had to use in the first two or three years before the new syllabuses had been worked out, new text books printed and the acute paper shortage overcome.

There were other difficulties too, which have since been overcome. The children were nervous, badly clad and under-fed, schools were not properly heated and terribly over-crowded, because so many school buildings had been totally destroyed. Now Margot goes to the new 12th School in Prenzlauer Berg, which was opened last Easter and accomodates 700 children.

The children's health is vastly better now. School doctors, nurses and dentists make regular medical inspections and in the past few years thousands of children have been sent away under the social insurance system for six-week holiday cures. The regulation inoculations and vaccinations, including TB, are provided free for all children in the school clinics.

In spite of all past difficulties, children leaving school this year are in possession of a very good all-round education.

Margot's favorite subject is history and when I asked her about it she gave me without hesitation a quick summary of what she has learned in the last four years, beginning in the fifth class with pre-historic times and the development up to and including the pre-Christian civilisations.

She told me what she remembered about the development of feudalism, about Luther and the Reformation, about the great voyages of discovery and about the Peasants' War. In the seventh class they had learnt something of the development of capitalism and the great inventions, the growth of the British Empire, the French Revolution and the revolutions of 1830, 1848 and 1871, and had begun to study the history of Germany in some detail.

She knows a great deal about the development of the working class movement and has a clear understanding of the conflicts involved. This year her class are learning about the 1917 revolution in Russia and the history of the Soviet Union up to 1936, the history of Germany between the wars with special stress on the working class and trade union movements, and about the events leading up to the second world war. Margot has a very good idea about the destructive part played by the nazis.

In physics they learnt last week about telegraph and wireless and morse code and built an electric bell system. In biology they learnt about the origin of coal and the way in which we get our knowledge of prehistoric animals through the preservation of fossils.

This year's geography is mainly German, but they have spent one term on the geography of the Soviet Union and the Asiatic countries. The text book for this is a charming little book called "Geographical Science of the Asiatic People's Democracies", which gives simple accounts, with many lovely illustrations, of the geography of the People's Democracies of Korea, Vietnam, China and Mongolia. There are pictures of industrial towns, farming scenes, mountain and river pictures and even some Chinese characters representing names of important mountains, rivers and cities.

Children start with home geography in the third class and Berlin children have lots of fun visiting places of geographical interest in and around Berlin. In the intervening years they learn something of the geography of Africa, America, India, Australia and some of the European countries, always with special emphasis on the actual lives of the peoples.

Margot began learning Russian in the fifth class and she can now read and translate simple texts and carry on a simple conversation.

The eight year general literature reader contains extracts from past and present German writers, translations of Russian and Soviet literature and stories by progressive writers of other countries.

In mathematics Margot can do quite complicated problems in arithmetic, simple algebraic equations, plane geometry and she will start with theorems after Easter.

All school books are free and do not have to be handed in at the end of the year, as they are issued new to each class. This allows for constant revision and improvement of text books.

Some hours are devoted to sport, gymnastics and drawing and those interested can join a chemistry and biology circle which meets twice a week in the afternoons.

About 450 of the 700 children in Margot's school eat school lunch, which is provided at a cost of 15 pfennigs (the cost of two cigarettes) a meal, for all who like to take it, but primarily, of course, for the children of working mothers.

When Margot is through this year she will go on to high school for another four years, but many of her school-mates will go as apprentices to factories. They will go with a basic education which will enable them to continue their studies if they wish, in technical schools, evening classes or workers' and peasants' matriculation courses. No intelligent child is cut off from the possibility of higher education, for he receives a primary education of a much higher standard and much broader scope than was possible before 1945, or indeed in West Germany today.

This means of course, also, that children study much harder and that much more is demanded of them than before, but life is not all work.

Margot spent two months from March to May last year in the famous "Wilhelm Pieck" Pioneer Republic on the Wehrbellin Lake not far from Berlin, a wonderful holiday home run by the children themselves, and she went away again to the Baltic Coast with a school group during the long summer holidays. There are all sorts of similar opportunities for children whose parents work in factories or other organisations.

Children who belong to the Young Pioneers' organisation can go to the Central House for Young Pioneers in Friedrichshain to take part in all sorts of activities, dancing, gymnastics, theatricals, study circles, and to see cinema shows and plays in the beautiful children's theatre, all free of charge except the theatre, which charges a small entrance fee for individual children, but not for school groups, which make up the biggest part of the audiences.

The Central House in Friedrichshain is rather far away for the Prenzlauer Berg children, so they are waiting anxiously for their own Centre, which will be built this year, on the model of the one in Friedrichshain.

(cont. on page 37)

SOCIALIST PREMIER LISTS SPY CENTRES

At least eleven different western spy organisations are active in Germany today, Georg August Zinn, Social Democratic Premier of the West German State of Hesse announced on February 13th. Premier Zinn was addressing the Prime Ministers of all West German provinces in Munich.

He named the following organisations:

1. The **"Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution"**, with headquarters in Cologne. (This is the official political police branch of the West German Government. It is supervised by Mr. Gault McGowan, West German representative of the American FBI. Full details in GERMAN REPORT, July 3rd 1953.)

2. The **"Offices for the Protection of the Constitution"** maintained by each of West Germany's eleven provinces.

3. The **"Institute for Contemporary Research"** maintained by the Blank Office, West Germany's de facto War Office. (Until November 1953 this Institute was headed by nazi lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Wilhelm Heinz, self-confessed murderer and Hitlerite spy. For full details see GERMAN REPORT dated December 11th 1953.)

4. The **Office of the Federal Chancellor** which Herr Zinn stated: "Is also active in this field."

5. The **"General Gehlen Espionage Organisation"**, which, stated Herr Zinn "became well-known when its ring of agents in Berlin was exposed". (The Gehlen Organisation, mainly composed of professional nazi spies and SS men, was unmasked early in November 1953. Full details in GERMAN REPORT November 13th 1953.)

6. The **"People's League for Peace and Liberty"** which Herr Zinn stated "is financed in some manner by the Federal Ministry for All German Questions".

7. The **"Advisory Council for Factory Protection"** organised by the Federal Association of German Industry.

8. The **"Investigating Committee of Free Jurists"**, with headquarters at 28 Lima Strasse, in the American Sector of West Berlin.

9. The **"Fighting Group Against Inhumanity"** which has headquarters at 2 Ernst-Ring-Strasse, in the American Sector of West Berlin.

10. The **"Federation of German Youth"**, which in 1952 was found to have drawn up lists of prominent Socialists, trade unionists and others due to be "liquidated" on "X Day". One of the persons named on the murder lists was Premier Georg August Zinn himself.

11. The numerous political and military espionage groups maintained by the American, British and French occupation authorities.

(cont. from page 36)

For children who do not belong to the Young Pioneers, the school arranges excursions and theatre and cinema visits, free or at very low prices. A special feature are the class excursions, once each term, when the teacher takes his class to some interesting spot outside Berlin for a whole day, perhaps to a swimming pool, or to see the famous baroque palaces in the Sans Souci Park in Potsdam, or for a steamer trip down the river.

During the long summer holidays special efforts are made to get as many children out into the open air as possible. For the Berlin children there are day and ten-day camps on the beaches of the many little lakes around the city, where children who do not get away with their parents or with one of the many organisations can spend happy days at a cost well within the reach of most parents. Teachers and parents also take class groups on ten-day or fortnights' walking tours, mostly in Thuringia, where the countryside is very beautiful.

U.S. SPIES PREPARE FOR ATOM WAR

On this page we reproduce a letter which has been circulated to thousands of former Wehrmacht officers living in West Germany, who spent a term of imprisonment in the Soviet Union.

It is clear that the "United States Air Force Historical Research Centre" is not interested in what would usually be regarded as "historical research", but in getting information useful in planning an atomic bomb attack on the Soviet Union.

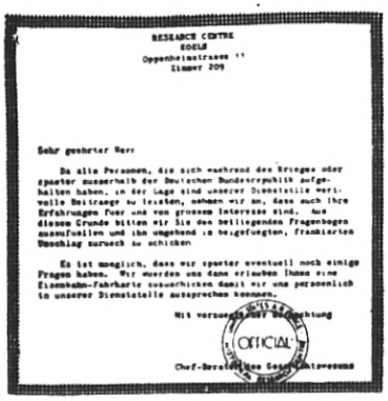
The questions asked on the circular enclosed with the letter include the following:

"Where were you imprisoned?"
"Where did you work during this period?"

"If in industry, in what factory, and what precisely was your job?"
"Did you work on flying fields? What was the name and the exact situation?"

"Did you work on the building of roads, bridges, stores, etc? Where and when?"

British readers may like to bring this matter to the attention of their members of parliament, for the interesting fact is that this American Espionage Centre is situated in Cologne, in the British Zone of Germany.



RESEARCH CENTRE
EDELB
Oppenheimstrasse 11
Zimmer 209

Sehr geehrter Herr

Da alle Personen, die sich während des Krieges oder
später ausserhalb der Deutschen Bundesrepublik aufge-
halten haben, in der Lage sind unserer Dienststelle wert-
volle Beiträge zu leisten, möchten wir an, dass auch Ihre
Erfahrungen hier von grossem Interesse sind. Aus
diesem Grunde bitten wir Sie den beiliegenden Fragebogen
auszufüllen und ihn umgehend in beigefügten, frankierten
Umschlag zurück zu schicken.

Es ist möglich, dass wir später eventuell noch einige
Fragen haben. Wir würden uns dann erlauben Ihnen eine
Eisenbahn-Fahrkarte zuzuschicken damit wir uns persönlich
in unserer Dienststelle aussprechen können.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

OFFICIAL

Chef-Berater für Geschichtswesen

Translation

RESEARCH CENTRE
COLOGNE
Oppenheim Strasse 11
Room 209

Dear Sir,

Since all persons who were outside the German Federal Republic during the war or later are in a position to give our Centre valuable help, we believe that your experiences too would be of great interest to us. For this reason we request you to fill out the attached questionnaire, and return it to us immediately in the attached stamped addressed envelope.

It is possible that we shall have some further questions later. In this case we shall send you a railway ticket so that you can come here for a personal talk.

Yours etc.,

Chief Adviser on Historical Affairs.
(Stamp) United States Air Force,
Historical Research Centre

You Ask — We Answer:

"WHAT ABOUT ELECTIONS IN EAST GERMANY?"

"Can you answer the statement of Dulles at the Four Power Conference that the East German electorate were given a list with names on and all they had to do was put the paper in the ballot box and this they were forced to do by intimidation"

John B. Butterworth, Sheffield, England

The Editor replies:

Here is what U. S. Secretary of State Dulles said on the subject of East German elections at the February 2nd session of the Berlin Conference:

"It is true that 98 per cent of the eligible voters appeared at the polling places. They came because they had been told that if they did not come they would be treated as 'enemies of the people' and subjected to grave penalties as such. The entire population of many villages was forcibly rounded up and marched to the polls... After the voters arrived at the polls they were handed a ballot. It was a ballot which had been secretly printed, and it was not made public until election day.

"I have a copy of that ballot here. It is simply a list of names. No place is provided on the ballot to indicate approval or disapproval... The voters were merely ordered to put the ballot in the ballot box."

Mr Dulles' account is as complete a travesty of what actually happened in the elections to the People's Chamber, held on October 15th 1950, as it is possible to imagine.

Let us examine his charges, point by point.

1. The alleged intimidation

On polling day I visited polling booths in a number of districts of Berlin, and in villages nearby. In every place I visited voting was going on exactly as normally and peacefully as in the elections I have seen in England. If there had been a single case of anyone being arrested or sent to prison for not voting, the western press and Mr. Dulles would have made great play of the fact. There was of course no such case. (Just incidentally, some "western" countries impose penalties on voters who do not go to the polls.)

Was any other sort of pressure brought upon the voters? From personal observation I should say there was pressure — the pressure of public opinion which makes people civilised citizens, makes them stand in orderly queues for the bus, and stop spitting in the streets.

2. The "secretly printed list of names"

I have never heard of ballots being publicly printed in any country. The names on the list were by no means secret, since every single candidate had presented himself publicly to dozens of meetings in the constituency. There was only one list of names because all the political parties in East Germany — the Socialist Unity Party, the Christian Democrats, Liberal Democrats, National Democrats, Peasants' Party — together with the trade unions, youth organisation, womens' organisation, and other organisations, had agreed before the elections to present a combined list of candidates, all of whom supported the programme of the National Front for the formation of an anti-fascist democratic Germany.

This did not mean by any means that the electors had no voice in choosing the candidates. Many weeks before the elections the various parties and organisations proposed their candidates for the combined list, and these candidates then appeared at factory meetings, village meetings, trade union group meetings and so on. Here they were mercilessly cross-examined by the electors on their views and their actions. I was present at a number of these selection meetings, and saw the way in which the selection was made. All candidates had to give an account of their activity in their places of work, and there were always searching questions about what the candidates had done during the nazi period. Anyone who had collaborated with the nazis was immediately stricken from the list.

The candidates were in fact selected by the politically active section of the population, by the active trade unionists, by the womens' league members and so on. For those electors who stay passively at home, never concerning themselves about political life, and never reading anything except the sports pages of the newspapers, the names on the ballot may have been new. It was obviously such an "ideal voter" who gave Mr Dulles his information.

3. "No place on the ballot to indicate disapproval"

It is a matter of record that 34,060 voters on October 15th 1950 recorded their votes against the candidates of the National Front. They must obviously have been more ingenious than Mr Dulles.

* * *

Some readers of GERMAN REPORT in western countries, accustomed to the nominal "freedom of choice" allegedly provided by the elections to which they are used, may disapprove of the electoral methods in East Germany; these electoral methods have, however, produced a Parliament composed in the overwhelming majority of workers and farmers who have put into effect a programme of democratic reforms which for the first time in history have produced a really anti-militarist, anti-fascist and progressive German state. The allegedly "free elections" in West Germany, rigged by Krupp and the other big industrialists who brought Hitler to power, have produced a parliament which is full of SS men, storm troopers and militarists, who are working steadily to found a new fascist Wehrmacht, to curb trade unions, and ultimately to launch a new war of aggression.

On this page we introduce a new feature to our readers. If you have questions about Germany, and particularly about life and work in the German Democratic Republic, please send them in. Questions of general interest will be answered on this page.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 marks, 8/- sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, postage paid.

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Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167 III, Berlin W 8, Germany.

French and German Youth Call Berlin Conference

Representatives of French and German youth organisations have appealed to all youth organisations in Europe to send delegates to a conference in Berlin on April 24th and 25th, at which fighting measures against the "European Army" will be planned.

"The restoration of militarism in West Germany, the final partitioning of Germany, and the division of Europe into two hostile parts means the risk of war" the appeal states.

"We call upon all youth organisations on a local, national and international level, to oppose the European Defence Community and the remilitarisation of Germany, whatever their views may be on other subjects.

"We invite the spokesmen of youth from all countries in Europe to attend a conference in Berlin in order to discuss these questions."

The appeal was signed, amongst others, by Jean Ellen, Republican Youth of France; Jaques Vitoux, of the Catholic "Action for Peace"; Hannes Keusch, Free German Youth; Ludwig Schenk, member of the West German Socialist Youth Movement.

APPEAL FOR WORKERS' UNITY

The Socialist Unity Party in East Germany has called on all German workers in East and West to join in the struggle against the re-estableshment of a fascist Wehrmacht.

In an open letter addressed on February 15th to the Central Board of the West German Social Democratic Party, and to all members of that party, the Socialist Unity Party drew attention to the great dangers created by remilitarisation, and called for a joint conference of Social Democrats, Communists and trade unionists to fight the danger.

Right-wing Social Democratic leader Erich Ollenhauer rejected the suggestion out of hand, but the open letter had a very favourable reception in many local groups of the Social Democratic Party in West Germany.

Jail for Peaceful Picketing

The District Court at Krefeld, West Germany, has sent twelve workers to prison for terms between four and twelve weeks because they took part in peaceful picketing in the course of a recent strike of tile-layers.

WEST BERLIN BANS OISTRACH

"No Communists Allowed"

The West Berlin administration banned on February 18th a concert at which famed Soviet violinist David Oistrach was to have performed, together with an orchestra from Dresden in East Germany.

The ban was imposed by Joachim Tiburtius, West Berlin "Senator for Cultural Affairs".

On February 18th, Herr Tiburtius was asked in an interview to explain why the concert had been banned. He stated:

"I shall never again allow Communists to play music in West Berlin. In fact all these things should be tightened up in future. I already demand from every school teacher that he take up an anti-eastern position. I shall not allow West Berlin artists to appear in East Berlin in future either.

"There are some well-known singers for instance who live in West Berlin and work at the opera in East Berlin. They have said they will move out of West Berlin if I impose a ban. I don't care.

"I shall also forbid West Berlin artists to make tours in East Germany; I shall only allow it if the invitations come from nonsuspect quarters. But I shall make these artists promise never to go on the stage in a 'House of German-Soviet Friendship' and they must see to it that there are no peace slogans in the hall or on the programme.

"I shall in future always ban the appearance of all performers from East Germany in West Berlin."

(Soviet violinist David Oistrach gave two enormously successful concerts in Hamburg and Dusseldorf in West Germany, where the witch-hunting Herr Tiburtius has no authority. Music-lovers from West Berlin thronged to hear David Oistrach in free East Berlin on February 21st, three days after the concert was banned in the "free" western part of the city.)

More Butter

East Germans eat more butter per head than they did before the war, official statistics published in Berlin show.

Butter consumption per head in 1936 was 18.7 lbs. In 1953, butter consumption in East Germany was 19.3 lbs. Consumption is rising steadily, and it is planned that this year it will reach 22 lbs per head.

Peace Work is "Neglect"

Pastor Johannes Oberhof has been relieved of his post as pastor of the St. Martini parish in Bremen, West Germany because of his attendance at World Peace Council meetings.

The Bremen disciplinary chamber of the Evangelical church called his peace work "serious neglect of his pastoral duties".

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

Dept. of Wide-Eyed Innocence

From the London "Times" Parliamentary Report, February 18th:

Mr. Arthur Lewis (West Ham North, Labour) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for an assurance that the Government would not support or assist in any way a rearmed Germany where those armed forces contained Nazis or former Nazis.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State (Wirral, Conservative) . . . It would be unrealistic to require that every soldier in the German contribution (to EDC) should be free from all past Nazi connections.

Brigadier Medlicott (Norfolk, Central, Conservative) said that it should be remembered that less than nine years ago this country was fighting for its life against Nazism, and surely no means must be neglected to ensure that those who believed in that detestable doctrine would never again regain power and control.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd agreed, and added that they had to ensure that conditions were not created in which Nazism would rise again.

(GERMAN REPORT comments: Has Mr. Selwyn Lloyd really not heard that the West German cabinet today contains two SS officers and two officers of Hitler's Storm Troops, and that the industrialists who brought Hitler to power, like Krupp and consorts, are in full control again in West Germany today?)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A few days ago I happened to be in the office of one of the leading commentators of Berlin Radio as he was opening his morning mail.

"Take a look at that" he said, and flicked a letter across to me. The envelope bore a West German stamp. Here are a few sentences from the letter:

"You shut up, with your comments on our Field Marshall Kesselring and the Stahlhelm ... One day there is going to be a great German Army once again, German divisions will march on Moscow, and the days of Bolshevism are numbered. We must avenge the blood of the German soldiers who fell fighting for our Fuehrer Adolf Hitler ...

Long live Greater Germany!"

This is bad enough, but worst of all is the signature: "A Youth of Sixteen". The handwriting proves too that the letter has been written by a schoolboy.

So this is the result of nine years of denazification and "education in democracy" in West Germany. A boy who was just seven years old when nazism was smashed, using all the slogans and lies of Hitlerite propaganda.

Poison Pen

"Do you get many letters like this?" I asked my friend. He silently opened a drawer in his desk, and handed me a bulging file. "All those have come in in the past few months" he said.

I flicked through the file, which contained several hundreds of letters. Phrases leaped out from every page: "Gas all you red swine" — "We shall liquidate the Polish scum" — "When we get back into uniform again we shall make the frog-eaters pay" and so on, ad nauseam.

"Almost all of these letters come from West Germany" the radio commentator told me. "We still get an odd anonymous letter from someone in the German Democratic Republic, but it is quite exceptional".

"These letters are shocking of course, particularly when they come from schoolboys and students, but you shouldn't get the idea that West Germany is made up exclusively of SS men." And my friend handed me several more files.

Here were the letters of those Germans who have resisted the militaristic hate propaganda which has been going on in West Germany almost without a break since Hitler came to power in 1933; and there were far more of these positive letters than there were of the negative ones.

Significantly, very many of these positive letters were anonymous, a sign that the writers were afraid of police persecution if the West German censors found that they were writing letters of goodwill to East Germany.

Significantly too, many of these letters were muddled and confused; the letters of honest decent people groping for a solution. This is an attitude very characteristic of large sections of the West German population today.

Crazy Corner

"... The Rev. Dr. John H. McComb declared in his sermon yesterday morning at the Broadway Presbyterian Church ... that those who 'still imagine world peace can be achieved by the nations sitting down together and talking over their differences are naive, indeed, and disregard what the Bible teaches'."

New York Times, February 1st 1954

The reverend gentleman should consult St. Matthew Chapter 5, verse 9.

Here is a guest contribution from "Critic", writing in the London "New Statesman" on February 20th:

"A friend just back from Berlin tells me that the Conference is being nick-named by newspapermen 'The Faker's Field-day'. It was thought first, I gather, that the United Press had romped home with the gilt-edged prize when its Berlin Bureau spread across America, in flaming, front-page headlines, the wholly imaginary story of 40,000 East German police descending on the Soviet Sector of Berlin to forestall riots. Chagrined at being 'outdreamed', the correspondent of the New York Daily News hurriedly left Berlin after 'exposing' a plot to assassinate Molotov at the reception given in his honour last week by Eden, Dulles and Bidault. Security officers and psychiatrists joined in dismissing this journalistic enterprise as 'wishful reporting'. In the final week, however, the Oscar was won by West Berlin's Police Headquarters. To the ecstasy of the local 'Boulevard' press, they announced that the East German Government was employing numerous beautiful women spies to worm secrets out of British and other Western correspondents. The newspapermen concerned are complaining bitterly that they are unable to corroborate this one."

Exploited

Some readers in the London area may remember the young German poet Kurt Barthel, commonly known as Kuba, who played a prominent part in the Free German Movement in Britain during the war years.

On February 19th his mother, Frau Minna Barthel, died at the age of 63. I was very touched by the little obituary advertisement published in the East German press:

"For thirty years Frau Minna Barthel was exploited as a cottage worker for the Dietrich Glove Factory in Markersdorf. This glove factory now belongs to the people, and our mothers, our wives and our daughters will in future live longer and live more happily."

"Use Doubletalk"

British Labour leader Herbert Morrison is obviously worried about the frank way in which West German leaders express their nazi mode of thought.

That is the only reason I can find for his statement in the House of Commons on February 24th:

"I would impress on the (West) German Government ... that they should be judicious in their policy, and the expression and exposition of it, in order that they could convince the rest of the world that Germany of today was a new Germany ..."

He was obviously thinking of expressions like this, made by West German Transport Minister Hans Christoph Seebohm:

"European culture can only be found where Germans live" (August 9th, 1952).

"The German East includes not only the Elbe and the Oder but also Bohemia and all areas in which Germans once settled." (August 2nd 1953).

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